

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

EA-07 ACDA-07 NEA-10 EB-07 TRSE-00 /091 W

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R 041818Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3628

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BU, FR

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV LE MONDE INTERVIEW

1. SUMMARY: ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO NOTE INTERVIEW BY TODOR ZHIVKOV WITH LE MONDE'S EDITOR ANDRE FONTAINE PROMINENTLY PUBLISHED BY LE MONDE ON AUGUST 4.

2. ZHIVKOV BEGINS WITH SERIES CONFIDENT COMMENTS ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BULGARIA IN LAST TEN YEARS (I.E., "BULGARIA CAN NOURISH 1-1/2 BULGARIAS NOW, TWO BULGARIAS IN 1980 AND THREE IN 1985. . . . WE ARE NOW SECOND AFTER THE USSR IN ELECTRONICS IN COMECON.") HE ALSO UNDERLINES CULTURAL EVOLUTION WITH SATISFACTION, BUT SINGLES OUT PRODUCTIVITY AND THE EFFECTS OF RISING

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WORLD PRICES AS MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS. ON OTHER HAND

INCREASING PAYMENTS PROBLEMS OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE REDEFINED AS NORMAL FOR ECONOMIES IN PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT.

3. ZHIVKOV THEN COMMENTS ON ECPC, WHICH HE SAYS UNFOLDED IN A SPIRIT OF "CAMARADERIE." THE QUESTION OF THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT WAS NOT DISCUSSED, SINCE "THIS IS QUESTION WHICH EACH PARTY RESOLVES DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS IN ITS COUNTRY." ASKED WHY MARCHAIS DID NOT WANT ANOTHER SUCH MEETING TO TAKE PLACE, ZHIVKOV SAID PCF'S DECLARATION DID NOT SAY THAT (WHICH IS ONLY TECHNICALLY CORRECT BECAUSE MARCHAIS PERSONALLY DID). HE THEN ADDED THAT "IF ANOTHER MEETING HAS TO TAKE PLACE, I THINK IT SHOULD BE A WORLD CONFERENCE. IF SUCH AN INITIATIVE IS LAUNCHED, AND I AM NOT SAYING IT WILL BE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, 90 TO 95 PERCENT OF THE CPS WILL SUPPORT IT." ZHIVKOV NEVERTHELESS ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES ON CERTAIN QUESTION AMONG CPS AND THAT THINGS WERE THEREFORE NOT QUITE THE SAME AS IN STALIN'S DAYS.

4. CHINA HE DESCRIBED AS A "BOILING KETTLE. NOBODY KNOWS HOW THAT WILL END." "ALL CHINA IS NOW DOING IS HELPING THE BLACKEST REACTIONARY FORCES, EVEN IF IT HAS BECOME INTERNATIONALLY FASHIONABLE TO GO TO PEKING."

5. ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ZHIVKOV SAID HE HAD TOLD A VISITING HEAD OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRY RECENTLY: YOU HAVE TANKS AND WE HAVE TANKS. IF WAR EVER BROKE OUT THEY WOULD NOT EVEN HAVE TIME TO GET TO THE FRONTIERS. NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD IMMEDIATELY ENTER INTO ACTION. THAT'S WHAT THE BERLIN MEETING WAS REALLY ABOUT. ONCE PEACE IS ASSURED ONE CAN DISCUSS WHETHER OR NOT TO APPLY

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THE CONCEPT OF DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT. WE HAVE CHOSEN POPULAR DEMOCRACY. THAT IS THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT. BUT AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN OUR COUNTRY.

6. AMONG ZHIVKOV'S COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, FOLLOWING WERE OF POSSIBLE INTEREST. HE SAID RELATIONS WITH TURKEY WERE ON THE UPGRADE. WITH YUGOSLAVIA, THERE WERE STILL PROBLEMS, DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. "BUT THERE ARE PROBLEMS LIKE THAT AMONG OTHER NEIGHBORS ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE TOO." ZHIVKOV EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS WILL BE FOUND WITH YUGOSLAVIA CORRESPONDING TO THE "HISTORIC TRUTH AND PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REALITIES."

7. INTERVIEW ALSO CONTAINS SHARP SLASH AT "SUBVERSIVE IMPERIALIST FORCES" WHOM ZHIVKOV BLAMES FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION IN LEBANON, NOTING AT SAME TIME THAT BULGARIA HAS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH "MOST" ARAB STATES. ITS RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND THE PLO, MENTIONED IN SAME SENTENCE, ARE BOTH "VERY ACTIVE AND VERY FRIENDLY."

8. AS FOR FRANCO-BULGARIAN RELATIONS, ZHIVKOV SPEAKS OF CONTINUING POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL CONTACTS IN LAST TEN YEARS, AND OF PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC AND ESPECIALLY CULTURAL COOPERATION AND RELATIONS. PROBLEMS

EXIST ONLY IN THE IMBALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

9. COMMENT: WE LEAVE TO EMBASSY SOFIA TO COMMENT ON POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE OR LACK THEREOF OF ZHIVKOV'S REMARKS, FOR INSTANCE WITH REGARD TO IRRELEVANCE OF TANKS IN ANY FUTURE CONFLICT. WE ALSO STRUCK BY RATHER RESERVED LANGUAGE USED IN DESCRIBING EVOLUTION OF BULGARIA'S RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, ALTHOUGH FRENCH HAVE BEEN MAKING NOTICEABLE EFFORT TO UPGRADE BULGARIA IN EE PECKING ORDER.

10. COPIES OF INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED SOFIA AND DEPARTMENT FOR EE.  
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